

BASIS FOR THE AMENDMENT

Claim 1 has been amended by incorporating therein the limitations of allowable Claim 3, Claim 6 has been amended by incorporating therein the limitation of allowable Claim 8, and Claim 11 has been amended by incorporating therein the limitations of allowable Claim 13, Claims 3, 8, and 13 thus having been canceled.

Also, the dependencies of Claims 4, 9 and 14 have accordingly been corrected.

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration of this application is requested.

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 9-12 and 14-20 remain in the case.

Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 13, 14, 16 and 17 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The claims have been amended consistent therewith in a manner so as to place them in condition for allowance. They are now restricted to the invention as defined by claims considered allowable by the Examiner, thereby obviating the Examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) and 103(a) over the cited and applied art.

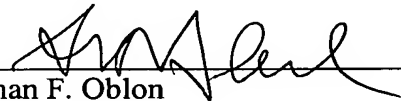
Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 is requested.

With regard to the objection to the Title, a new Title as suggested by the Examiner has been provided.

Accordingly, a formal Notice of Allowance of this application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Norman F. Oblon  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 08/03)  
SHB:smi

Samuel H. Blech  
Registration No. 32,082